

AGENDA WORK SESSION
April 24, 2014 – 5:00 pm

To Set the Agenda For The
May 8, 2014 Council Meeting

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on April 24, 2014, 5:00 pm at East Ridge City Hall to set the agenda for the May 8, 2014 Council Meeting and other items. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Present were: Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Bethune, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Gravitt, Councilmember Sewell, City Manager Hyatt, City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 965 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 481), BY MODIFYING THE DEFINITION OF "TOWNHOUSE" UNDER ARTICLE II, SECTION 218, AND ADDING ARTICLE V, SECTION 303.10 (2nd and final reading)
Mayor Lambert stated this item was tabled in the last meeting. First reading will be in tonight's regular council meeting.

ORDINANCE NO. 966 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, RESCINDING THE ANNUAL PERMIT FEE ASSESSED TO ALL PRIVATE WASTE DISPOSAL COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE (2nd and final reading) – The Mayor stated this is on the agenda for tonight's regular meeting for first reading.

New Business Discussion:

ORDINANCE NO. _____ - AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE BUDGET – City Manager Hyatt introduced Thad Jablonski, who is the new City Treasurer. Councilmember Manning asked how much the City is spending for a treasurer and a finance director. Mayor Lambert stated that was discussed when the position was created. Mr. Jablonski stated there are several items that could run over in the budget – worker's compensation, HRA benefits on medical insurance, and indoor and rec soccer. Soccer is over their budget because there were more participants, which brought in more revenues, but also incurred more expenses.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF SOCCER LEASE – Director Martin stated that Matt Yelton, ERFC Director of Coaching, approached him about a merger with Chattanooga Futbol Club (CFC) and the lease for them to use the fields at Camp Jordan. Mr. Yelton met with CFC and they accepted the terms that Mr. Yelton had asked for. He talked to everyone concerned and went forward with plans for a lease. Mr. Martin stated that East Ridge Futbol Club brings in \$21,000 annually, but with the new agreement, it will go up to \$55,000 per year - \$40,000 for rental and \$15,000 for field maintenance. CFC would use fewer fields and concessions would not be included, since we already have a contract with a concessions vendor. Mr. Martin stated we will still be working with the same coaches, the same director of coaching and basically the same players. Mr. Yelton and Jack Skelton, the attorney who drew up the

lease were present to answer any questions. Councilmember Gravitt asked Mr. Martin to explain to council why this is a good idea. Mr. Martin stated he would have no problem if things stayed the way they are, but leasing the fields to CFC would promote better competition for the teams. He stated we lease the fields now and we would keep ERFC's 501C3 for recreation soccer.

Councilmember Sewell asked what are the pluses and minuses of the agreement. Mr. Yelton stated it is a positive because it allows our players to be more competitive region wide. It would also add over \$30,000 to the city's income from soccer. He also stated that we have a 160-team tournament coming up and if merged that will increase next year possibly to four tournaments. He stated that the rec league and the indoor soccer would also increase. There would be more economic impact for the hotels, restaurants, gas stations, etc. He also stated the City would not spend any more on field maintenance than they do now. Mr. Yelton stated if the lease is not approved, the program would become smaller and players would go elsewhere.

Councilmember Sewell asked if the City would still have a recreation league. Jon Hooper, President of ERFC, stated the rec league and the indoor league would still be the City's and is not included in the lease. Mr. Martin stated he is proud of what we have accomplished in soccer, but in today's competition, we cannot keep the program like it is now. He also believes this would have a huge economic impact on the City.

Mayor Lambert thanked Mr. Martin for bringing this before the Council; that it was not Mr. Martin's place to "kill" the idea. Mayor Lambert stated this could be added to the called meeting for May 1st.

RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF BIDS FOR DIGITAL SIGN AT CITY HALL. - City Manager Hyatt stated that bids would be opened on April 28th. Councilmember Manning asked when the Camp Jordan sign would be installed. Mr. Martin stated it would be around the first of May. Councilmember Sewell believes the new sign should be on Ringgold Road, not at City Hall, because there is more traffic on Ringgold Road. Mr. Gravitt agrees but it cannot go in front of the Fire and Police Building.

Discussion of Employee Bonus – Councilmember Manning suggested a bonus of \$600 for full-time employees and \$300 for part-time employees. Mr. Jablonski stated this would be \$73,600 for full-time and \$6,000 for part-time and volunteers. The Mayor would rather look at a salary increase of some kind and include it in budget discussions. Councilmember Sewell stated that bonuses are nice, but it does not help the employees on their retirement.

A budget meeting was scheduled for May 1st, 5:00 pm.

Discussion of School System – Councilmember Sewell stated that East Ridge having its own school system would better the community in the future. Mr. Gravitt stated this will be in the proposed charter changes. Mr. North stated that changes in state law make it possible to do this. He also stated that the City pays almost \$6 million each year to Hamilton County that goes directly to schools.

Discussion of Community Garden Agreement – City Manager Hyatt stated this is something that needs to come before council for approval every year. He stated we did not receive the grant we applied for but now we can apply again. Mimi Lowrey, who is in charge of the garden, would like to have raised beds at McBrien School. Councilmember Gravitt asked Mr. Martin if this area was used for sports practices. Mr. Martin stated it is used only a few days during football season for tryouts and that could be moved to another location. Councilmember Sewell suggested putting the raised beds in the new park on Monroe Street. Councilmember Manning commended Ms. Lowrey for working in the garden last year with very little help.

Discussion of an Ordinance barring electronic cigarettes, also known as “Vapes”, inside city owned buildings, vehicles and equipment. – Councilmember Gravitt stated that someone came in City Hall with an electronic cigarette and wants to address this before it becomes an issue. Staff will do an amendment to the smoking ordinance for next meeting.

Review Sign Ordinance – Mayor Lambert stated that some small business owners came to him about the sign ordinance being too strict when it comes to banners, etc. He stated the city should look at Chattanooga and other cities to see how they handle their sign ordinances. He also believes council should make the sign ordinance more flexible and friendlier to small businesses. Vice Mayor Bethune stated something needed to be done about the sign at the Clarion Hotel. Mr. Dempsey stated that Victory Signs got a permit to replace the sign. It will be a Comfort Inn. They are also remodeling the building in the rear; it will be an Econo Lodge and cannot be used for extended stay.

Application of Verizon Wireless for a “Use on Review” to construct a new wireless Telecommunications facility at 1405A Mack Smith Road. – Chief Building Official Dempsey stated that Verizon has made application for a Use on Review to construct the cell tower. Cell towers are allowed in that zone with a Use on Review. The tower will be 150 feet tall and requires a 160-foot fall zone. Mr. Dempsey stated there are no structures in the fall zone. The property belongs to East Ridge Retirement Center.

The meeting was adjourned.

OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE

April 24, 2014 - 6:30 p.m.

The East Ridge City Council met pursuant to notice on April 24, 2014, 6:30 pm at East Ridge City Hall. Mayor Lambert called the meeting to order.

Rev. Billy Dean gave the invocation. All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Present were: Mayor Lambert, Vice Mayor Bethune, Councilmember Manning, Councilmember Gravitt, Councilmember Sewell, City Manager Hyatt, City Attorney North, and City Recorder Middleton.

Firefighter's Oath of Enlistment – Mayor Lambert administered the Firefighter's Oath of Enlistment to new firefighters Travis Ezell and Aaron Smith. The Mayor appreciated the opportunity to swear them in.

Consent Agenda:

- A. Approval of Minutes March 27, 2014 Agenda Work Session
- B. Approval of Minutes March 27, 2014 Council Meeting
- C. Approval of March 2014 Financial Statement

Vice Mayor Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve the consent agenda. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Bethune – yes; Councilmember Gravitt – yes; Councilmember Manning – abstain; Councilmember Sewell – yes; Mayor Lambert – yes. Motion approved.

Communication from Citizens:

Mimi Lowrey, 819 Mt. Belvoir Drive, voiced her opposition to the proposed soccer lease with Chattanooga Futbol Club. Ms. Lowrey discussed Ordinance 965 regarding definitions of townhomes and whether it included duplexes. Ms. Lowrey also asked how much the city pays for city cell phones. City Treasurer Jablonski stated approximately \$60 per phone. City Manager Hyatt stated the old phones could be declared surplus and donated to battered women's shelters.

Ms. Lowrey also stated that Liberty Fest will be June 28th at Camp Jordan. There will be four musical acts, kid-oriented activities, and a karaoke contest with a prize of \$1,000. Ms. Lowrey stated she is starting on the community garden in two weeks and asked the council to help.

Communication from Councilmembers:

Councilmember Manning stated he appreciated everyone's prayers during his illness.

Vice Mayor Bethune recognized former Mayors Don Huskey and Tom Shaver, and former Councilmember Darwin Branam.

Councilmember Sewell had nothing at this time.

Councilmember Gravitt thanked members of the East Ridge JR ROTC for presenting the colors at the groundbreaking ceremony of Morning Point. He also thanked the Honda Gold Wing Road Rider's Association for bringing their event to East Ridge.

Mayor Lambert stated he attended a mock crash presentation at East Ridge High School for juniors and seniors. He stated there was a lady present whose son was killed by a drunk driver and the driver was also present with the mother. Both told stories of how their lives were affected by that event. The Mayor also stated that Sr. day is tomorrow at the high school.

Communication from City Manager/Staff:

- Mr. Hyatt recognized Thad Jablonski, the new city treasurer, from Lakeland, Tennessee. Mr. Jablonski thanked everyone for all the help they have given him. He also stated he will have a budget presentation next Thursday at 5 pm.
- City Manager Review – Mr. Hyatt has received three reviews. The Mayor stated he will have his by April 30th.
- Staff Reports
 - Parks and Recreation – Director Martin
 - Canoe Launch is under way and benches and signage have been ordered. There will be a West Chickamauga Creek clean up on May 15 – 17th.
 - Fields have upgraded, netting for the backstop will be installed and the metal bleachers from the soccer fields will be moved to the baseball fields.
 - Fishing Rodeo will be May 3rd with food and prizes for kids.
 - Mr. Martin is working with two large corporations on sponsorships for Camp Jordan.
 - Photography and concession bids will go out in May.
 - Working with Hamilton County on upgrades for the park at no cost to the City.
 - Honda Gold Wing Rally is at Camp Jordan. Some are camping but most are staying in hotels. There will be a motorcycle parade at 8:30 tonight on Ringgold Road. Mr. Martin cautioned everyone to watch out for the motorcycles while they are in town.
 - Liberty Fest will be June 28th. Acts have been booked.
 - Easter Egg Drop took place on April 5th with more than 10,000 kids, with eggs dropped from a helicopter. On two other event weekends, more than 9,000 vehicles came through the park.
 - Girl's softball tournament this coming weekend.
 - Police – Chief Reed
 - 26,654 miles driven, 3,081 gallons of gas used.
 - 237 offense reports and 87 crash reports
 - 1392 total calls
 - 411 citations, 78 misdemeanors, 20 felony arrests
 - Entered 96 warrants, and 94 served.

- 4 new vests ordered for new hires
 - Attended TML in Nashville
 - Attended Crimestoppers
 - Worked with Chattanooga Police Dept. to use Camp Jordan for training.
 - Discussed possibility of retiring drug dog.
 - Animal services
 - Replaced freezer
 - 76 total calls
 - 78 gallons of gas
- City Services
- Library –books checked out - 3,305, ebooks – 44, new library cards – 62, Read Across America at Spring Creek
 - Building Maintenance – Works at both fire and police stations doing various job, worked at pol., fixed water leak at Camp Jordan
 - Traffic Control – 36 new signs, installed 46 new sign, street cut inspections – 3, banners – 5, signal repair - 12, various other jobs. I-75 signals are complete.
 - Sanitation
 - Recycling – 41.42 tons, check from Rock Tenn for \$621.30, savings from landfill for recycling \$1,304.74
 - Garbage – 105 loads
 - Brush – 138 loads
 - Dumpsters – 2 rentals for \$543.15 profit
 - Chipping – \$3,274 revenue
 - Fuel – \$7,266.62
 - Street Department
 - Mowing at Exit 1 and other city owned properties
 - Pool Property - filled in pool
 - Installed Drainage pipe for citizens
 - Helped fix water leak at Camp Jordan
 - Built catch basins
- Fire Department
- 279 total calls
 - Property fire loss due to fire \$117,500
 - Property saved \$380,100
 - Fire fatalities – 0 - Fire injuries - 3
 - Have 19 career firefighters, 13 volunteers with 2 who are physicians who serve as medical directors
 - 20 buildings inspected
 - Fire education classes at schools and daycares – 3
 - 300 training hours for career firefighters
 - 3.62 minute response time
 - Codes
 - Inspections 86
 - 63 code violation letters sent out
 - Building, plumbing inspections - 14

- 17 street cut inspections
- Spring Creek – working with developers.
- 1 mil in renovation at Comfort Inn

Mayor Lambert asked if the department has an ISO inspection coming up. Chief Williams stated yes; anytime there are major changes such as a new chief, there is normally an inspection. He stated that currently our rating is a low 3, close to a 2, which is very good. A good ISO rating helps homeowners pay less for homeowner's insurance.

- Financial – City Treasurer Jablonski
 - Revenues exceed expenditures by 1.5 mil
 - Property tax collections and delinquent tax collections are both up.
 - Sales tax is down but should pick up.
 - Staff will do a budget amendment for workers comp, insurance, and soccer expenditures.

Councilmember Gravitt asked why expenditures are up for the garage. Mr. Hyatt stated it is for health insurance for retirees.

Mayor Lambert added an item to Old Business – Vietnam Memorial

The Mayor also moved Item C under New Business - Flea Market Zoning to this part of the agenda.

Flea Market Zoning – At this time, Mayor Lambert recognized Attorney Phil Lawrence, who represents the East Ridge flea market. He stated that in 2010, the city gave Mr. Chin, the owner of the flea market, notice of deficiencies regarding parking and electrical in the interior. Mr. Chin upgraded the electrical, but the City asked him not to reopen outside until the parking problem could be resolved. Mr. Chin made application for a “use on review” permit for an outdoor market, but a moratorium was put into place in January 2011 and then was extended after six months. Mr. Chin filed lawsuit against the City, but now it has been held up in circuit court. Mr. Chin bought the old Hungry Fisherman property to help with parking and safety requirements so emergency vehicles could get in, but it would cost between \$200,000 - \$250,000 to construct an outdoor building. Mr. Lawrence is requesting that Council amend the ordinance to remove the requirement of having a building or outdoor structure. Chief Building Dempsey stated that the parking plan complies with the City's ordinance; there are 689 spaces but only 496 are required. Council will consider amending the ordinance.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 964 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO AMEND THE ZONING REGULATIONS AND THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 615 FRAWLEY ROAD FROM A-1 AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT AND R-1 RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO RT-1 RESIDENTIAL TOWNHOUSE DISTRICT (2nd and final reading) – City Attorney North read on caption. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Bethune, to approve Ordinance No. 964 on second and final reading. Roll call vote: Vice Mayor Bethune – yes; Councilmember Gravitt – yes; Councilmember Manning – yes; Councilmember Sewell – yes; Mayor Lambert – abstain. Motion approved.

ORDINANCE NO. 965 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 481), BY MODIFYING THE DEFINITION OF "TOWNHOUSE" UNDER ARTICLE II, SECTION 218, AND ADDING ARTICLE V, SECTION 303.10 (1st reading – tabled 3/27/14) – City Attorney North read on caption. Vice Mayor Bethune asked Chief Building Official to explain this ordinance. Mr. Dempsey stated it was brought to his attention when RPA made comments about the definition of townhouse being 4 – 12 units. He did not know that this definition was in there and took responsibility for not knowing. This amendment would bring Frawley Lake into compliance. Vice Mayor Bethune asked if this ordinance is amended to allow 2-unit buildings (duplexes) how would you differentiate if other developers come forward asking to build duplexes. Mr. Dempsey stated that a development could be no more than 50% duplexes. Vice Mayor Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to remove Ordinance No. 965 from the table. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved. Councilmember Sewell made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to have 75% non duplex in new developments. Mr. North asked Mr. Dempsey if that would leave Frawley Lake non-conforming. Mr. Dempsey stated yes it potentially could. Mike Price, with MAP Engineers, suggested having no more than 1/3 duplexes in a development and that would make Frawley Lake be in compliance. Mr. Sewell withdrew his motion, and Mr. Manning withdrew his second. Mr. Sewell made another motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to amend Ordinance No. 965 to allow 33 1/3% 2-unit buildings or duplexes in a development. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Appointments to Industrial Development Board – All Councilmembers voted on a ballot and turned in the ballots to City Treasurer Jablonski to tabulate. Mayor Lambert announced the names of the appointees as follows: Ruth Braly, James Citty, Mac Pendley, Estes Cocke, Barton Burns, Curtis Baker, and Kelley Steele.

Vietnam Memorial – City Manager Hyatt stated staff has a price of approximately \$8,500 for a piece of granite for the memorial. The stone will be 8 ft. by 3 ft. and can have up to 500 characters. Councilmember Sewell suggested asking the American Legion to help with expenses for the memorial. Mr. Hyatt will check with them. Vice Mayor Bethune made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Manning, to approve purchasing the stone for the memorial. We can obtain the names from the Vietnam Veterans of America. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

New Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 966 – AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE, RESCINDING THE ANNUAL PERMIT FEE ASSESSED TO ALL PRIVATE WASTE DISPOSAL COMPANIES OPERATING IN THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, TENNESSEE (1st reading) – City Attorney North read on caption. Mayor Lambert asked how much we get from this fee. Amanda Miller, City Services, stated approximately \$2,000. The Mayor also discussed removing the existing fee to drop bulk items that citizens bring to the sanitation department. Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Vice Mayor Bethune, to approve Ordinance No. 966 on first reading. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

RESOLUTION NO. 2381 – A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EAST RIDGE, APPROVING THE APPLICATION AND ACCEPTANCE OF THE 2014-2015 AQUATIC STREAM CLEANUP GRANT – City Attorney North read on caption. This is used for River Rescue to help clean out Spring Creek. Councilmember Gravitt made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve Resolution No. 2381. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Approval to Have City Crews Hang a Banner for the Spring Creek Elementary Spring Carnival – Councilmember Manning made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Sewell, to approve the request. The vote was unanimous. Motion approved.

Discussion of Traffic Light at Camp Jordan and Exit 1 – Councilmember Gravitt stated that, according to a citizen, the new traffic signal at I-75, Exit 1, creates a tremendous amount of traffic congestion. It could possibly have a faulty sensor and asked if the Traffic Control Department could check into that. Councilmember Sewell asked them also to check on the signal at Mack Smith Road. Mr. Gravitt also asked if Traffic Control Supervisor Ailey could check with TDOT about making the Exit 1 intersection a “turn right on red” coming off the interstate.

Discussion of Amending City Code, Title 9, Chapter 2, Peddlers/Solicitors, Etc. - Peddlers Going Door to Door be Required to Wear Identification Lanyard and Have Magnetic ID on Vehicle – Councilmember Gravitt stated that people come to his office thinking it is a residence, trying to sell things. He suggested that the ordinance be amended to have door to door salespeople wear a city issued ID on a lanyard around their neck and also have magnetic signs on their car doors. They are also required to have a permit to go door to door. Director Qualls stated the permit fee is currently \$20 per solicitor but could be increased. Mr. Gravitt suggested the following changes:

- 9-204 – Permit required – add requirements to have identification on a lanyard around the solicitors’ neck and have a magnetic sign on the door that matches information on the ID. Traffic Control could make the signs for the doors.
- 9-204 – Permit procedures – make, model and tag number of vehicles and increase fees.
- 9-205 – Restrictions – sentence 2 and 3 states no sitting or standing in entrances that could impede traffic.
- 9-209 – Expiration and Renewal of Permit – this gives the permit holder six months. Mr. Gravitt would like to change that to 90 days

Mayor Lambert stated that several things need to be updated in this ordinance. Mr. North discussed vendors obtaining a business license to be able to sell at Camp Jordan events such as the gun show and also for flea market vendors.

Approval to Reimburse Councilmembers for Use of Their Personal Cell Phones for City Business – Councilmember Gravitt stated that he turned his city cell phone in and never used it because did not want to carry two phones. He does a lot of city business on his cell phone and requested that Councilmembers be reimbursed for using their personal phones for City business. City Attorney North stated that Councilmembers' phones are no longer personal phones if used for City business and would be subject to open records requests. He suggested that councilmembers use City phones for City business and personal phones for personal business.

Staff will prepare a resolution for the next meeting which gives councilmembers the option of having a City phone or being reimbursed \$25.00 of their personal cell phone bill.

A special called meeting was scheduled for May 1, 2014, at 5:00 pm for discussion of the FY 15 budget, and discussion of a soccer lease.

The meeting was adjourned.